

# The Choice

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

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**Ralph Watson,  
Executive Director**

Our Residential Program is the featured component for this issue of *The Choice*. Since its inception in the spring of 1991 as a work release program, it has undergone significant change. In 2011, the program serves a diverse group of individuals, and the expectation that they be employed while placed in the program is only one of many methods used to encourage a change in the behavior that resulted in each individual's placement. In this issue, as well as in future editions, you will hear more about the services that we offer with the hope that individuals placed under our supervision may transition back into the community as responsible citizens.

Individuals placed in this residential setting have been convicted of a criminal offense and have likely experienced one of two occurrences. First, they have been identified as needing intensive supervision

and services, and they have likely experienced other opportunities in community-based supervision programs with little success. The second occurrence is they are transitioning into the local community following a period of time at a more structured correctional setting. Regardless of the reason for placement, our objective is to identify the supervision and service needs of the individual and develop a unique case plan that will hold them accountable for their unacceptable behavior and provide the skills and education necessary for a successful return to the community.

Once the individual has completed the initial admissions process and a case plan has been developed, the agency and the new resident begin working to achieve the determined goals and objectives. The agency provides a high degree of structure and accountability. The resident has daily behavioral expectations and a significant amount of interaction with members of their treatment team which consists of Living Unit Coordinators, a Field Services Coordinator, and a Case Manager. During this interaction, the resident's treatment team employs a number of proven behavioral change techniques such as

motivational communication, social learning, and role-modeling.

The program requires that the resident develop an activity schedule each week and submit it for agency approval. This not only provides structure for the resident, but also ensures that recommended education and treatment services are a priority. While the resident is away from the facility at their place of employment, Department personnel conduct routine visits to the employer and inquire as to the resident's behavior and progress. The resident also meets with Department personnel on a frequent basis to monitor their case plan progress and to discuss any behavioral management issues within the facility.

A community-based supervision program's goal should be to provide an atmosphere in which a criminal offender can obtain the skills, education, and treatment services necessary to enhance their rehabilitative effort while also holding that offender accountable for their behavior and placing the community at minimal risk. We believe that we do that in our residential program. I hope that you find the accompanying articles informative and that you enjoy this issue of *The Choice*.

**Hamilton County  
Community  
Corrections**

Where change is a choice and accountability is a guarantee.

[www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Frequently Asked Questions



### What does HCCC do to assist participants in seeking employment?

Participants are regularly released to seek employment. They also use the agency's media resources to conduct electronic employment searches as well as prepare resumes and employment applications. The agency offers employment skills education as part of individualized case plans, and agency personnel provide guidance as to proper attire and interview techniques.

### Why are program participants assessed fees?

Each participant is required by agency policy to provide for a portion of the cost of their placement in the program. Participant fees are applied toward agency operational costs. The fee requirement holds the offender financially accountable for their behavior and lessens the burden for local taxpayers.

### Can a residential program participant who is a licensed driver keep a vehicle at the facility?



Yes. Participants must provide proof of licensure, registration, and insurance.

### Are residential program participants allowed to have visitors?

Yes, as long as the name of the visitor is on the approved visitor list.

### Are residential program participants given passes?

Participants do not receive passes. They are allowed to leave the building according to approved schedules, and there must be a specific purpose for their absence from the facility. This includes employment, medical visits, attendance at treatment/education programs, and other activities deemed essential by supervising personnel. Program participants can earn additional structured activity time away from the facility if they exhibit exemplary performance in regards to their case plans.

## Faith-based Services

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Chaplaincy is a non-profit organization whose chaplains are available to provide counsel to the Community Corrections residential program participants, Jail inmates, and the officers of the Sheriff's Department.

They are also available to the families of staff and residents of Community Corrections.

Led by Senior Chaplain Tom Burton, the Chaplaincy consists of eleven additional chaplains who volunteer their time.

The mission of the Chaplaincy is to serve the personnel, the community, and the residents as a supportive volunteer group of qualified ministers and counselors. By request, they are available to assist in personal matters including marriage, job, and spiritual counseling. Chaplains may

also help residents upon their release, offering mentoring and other services.

In addition, Chaplains are available to assist in time of emergency, as needed. Chaplains are called for death notifications in Hamilton County. In the case of disasters or other crises in the community, such as hostage situations, riots, demonstrations, or attempted suicides, the Chaplaincy serves and participates as a member of several emergency response teams.

The Chaplaincy assists the Sheriff's Department in training over 160 volunteers who come into the correctional complex to lead Bible studies, worship, and other programs established to help inmates and residents lead more productive lives upon their release.

Many of the chaplains are ministers with their own churches, and all have received a variety of special training through various police and chaplaincy associations. Many are also qualified in Critical Incident Stress Management, counseling, and crises intervention.

The Chaplaincy provides four classes for Community Corrections residents:

Sunday	Worship
Monday	Christian Intervention Program
Tuesday	Bible Study
Thursday	Gideons

The Chaplaincy's hope is that, through some of these offered classes, residents might see a better way of life for themselves.

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## BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



**Advisory Board Member,  
R. Dan Stevens**

**Dan Stevens** was a founding member of the HCCC Advisory Board in 1989 and has served in various capacities over the past 21 years, including Board President.

Currently the Director of Administration for the County Commissioners, Dan was an integral member of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department from 1974 to 2009. He served four years as a Deputy Sheriff, Dispatcher, and Jail Officer; eight years as Chief Deputy; 13 years as Division Commander, and two years as Project Manager. Dan guided the Sheriff's Department as a highly regarded County Sheriff from 1987 to 1994.

A 1970 graduate of Westfield Washington High School, Dan earned his degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University. A Noblesville resident, Dan and his wife of 33 years, Peggy, have two grown children. Daughter Keri is married with one son, and son R.D. currently serves as Sergeant, Day Shift Jail Division, for the Sheriff's Department.

Dan recently completed his tenth year of service as a Board Member for Chaucie's Place and participated in a civic leader orientation flight at Grissom Air Force Base.

He envisions HCCC becoming "the lead agency in developing cost-efficient, effective, and successful alternatives to incarceration for the Hamilton County Criminal Justice System."

Dan feels that it has been a "privilege to participate in the growth and development of HCCC from the very beginning" and believes that "the success of this program in becoming both a state and national leader in the community corrections field has been guided by the program's management and staff."



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Living Unit Coordinator,  
Sharon Roth**

**Sharon Roth**, a Living Unit Coordinator responsible for the 24-hour supervision of residential program participants, worked for Home Interiors and Gifts for 20 years before starting part-time employment with the Juvenile Center and the Jail. She worked for the County for two years before joining HCCC in November 1997.

A graduate of Central Catholic in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sharon is a

current resident of Noblesville.

A widow, she has two grown children & five grandchildren. Son Mike lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife, son Jackson, and twin daughters Katie and Carley. Daughter Johanna lives in Noblesville with her children Gabby and Emma.

Sharon spends as much time as possible with her grandchildren and is a frequent fixture at their schools. She also enjoyed spending more time with Gabby and Emma while they were on break from school.

Sharon has been an integral part of the transition to this building. She looks forward to helping open additional residential units as well as the eventual expansion to the third floor.



## Snapshot: Entering the Residential Program

By Chris Collins

Jimmy is sentenced to Hamilton County Community Corrections' residential program by the presiding Judge. Once Community Corrections has processed his paperwork, he is assigned an intake date on which he must report to the facility.

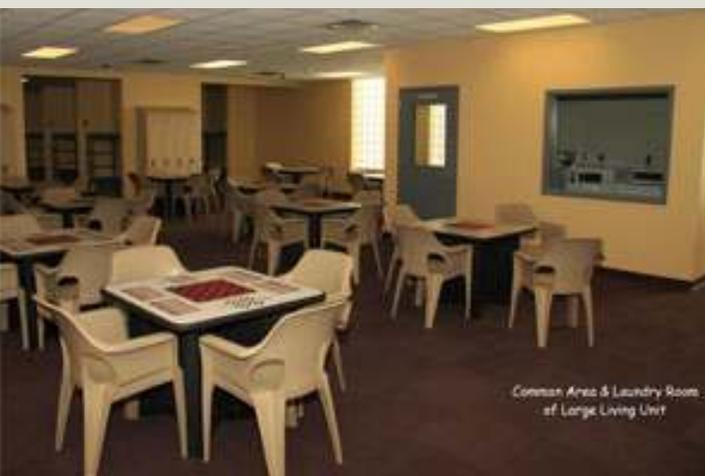
Upon his arrival, a Living Unit Coordinator will obtain a urine sample from him for drug screening, and all property he has brought into the facility will be searched. In addition, he will be given a copy of the Residential Handbook, combinations for his lockers, and his living unit and bunk assignment. Over the next several days, he will meet with the members of his treatment team.

When Jimmy meets with the Intake Coordinator, a risk assessment interview is conducted and the appropriate paperwork is signed. The Handbook and program contract will be read to him, and the Intake Coordinator will answer any questions he may have at that time. In addition to this appointment, Jimmy will undergo testing for educational and IQ levels.

This information, along with the risk assessment, will assist in case plan development.



2nd Floor Hallway



Common Area & Laundry Room  
of Large Living Unit

Jimmy next meets with his Case Manager who will go over his case plan. Classes required of him may include Employment Skills, Financial Management, GED, and possibly mental health and substance abuse evaluations. The Case Manager will also go over scheduling and facility forms.

Finally, Jimmy will complete a schedule and meet with his Field Services Coordinator who will discuss employment, scheduling, and his financial obligations while in the program. The remainder of Jimmy's time with HCCC will include weekly schedule submissions, fee payments, and monthly progress reports. Near the end of his sentence, paperwork will be processed with the Case Manager in preparation of his release. After attending classes and treatment, Community Corrections expects Jimmy to be a productive member of the community and to use what he has learned to avoid future trouble and poor decision-making.

## Making a Difference...

*"In the short two months I have been in HCCC, I have been given all sorts of great opportunities to better myself that I would not be as lucky to take advantage of in any other place. If I was on the 'outside,' the way I was heading, I probably would have continued to use drugs and continued the self-destruction of myself and my character due to the type of people I would be with and the decisions I would make while I was using.*

*There are a lot of rules at HCCC, some I don't agree with 100%, but these rules give structure and let us know where*

*boundaries are drawn. We have LUCs who show they care by being here for each individual.*

*We could be next door in jail where you never know what's really going to happen. When you get out of jail, most likely you are going to want to go back to the same friends that you had before, and you will eventually get back into doing the same stupid stuff that you did before and end up back in jail just to continue the same cycle.*

*At HCCC, that cycle is broken because they give you the freedom to go to work and build a positive cycle of responsibility. In my opinion, this ultimately builds more maturity, character, and responsibility. If I get more of those three things, I can honestly say I have bettered myself. To me, that is a good change and what I think HCCC wants me to get out of this program."*

*-A Program Participant*

# Residential Program Funding

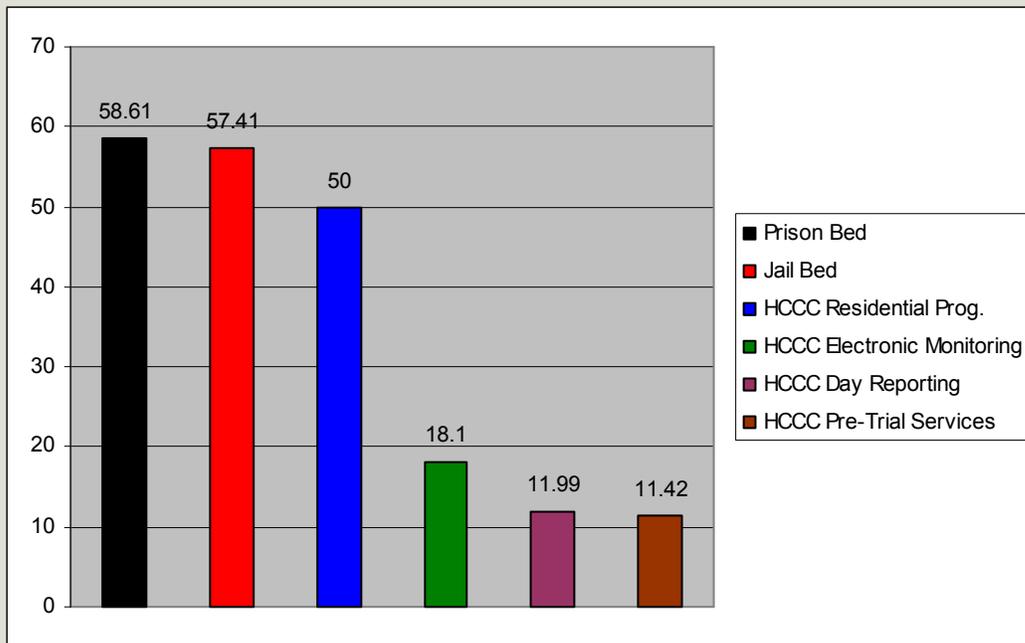
By Ralph Watson

The Residential Program is currently staffed to house 160 residents, each of whom are charged a fee that assists in funding the agency’s operating costs. A resident is required to pay a minimum of \$105 per week or 25% of their gross weekly wage, whichever is greater. The fee does not cover the entire cost of their placement at the facility, but it will lessen the impact on local taxpayers and hold the criminal offender financially accountable for behavior that society considers unacceptable.

The accompanying chart provides a summary of the daily cost to serve an offender in our residential program, along with costs for similar supervision methods. As you will note, the most expensive form of supervision is incarceration, of which the local taxpayer is 100% responsible. The daily cost of our residential program is \$50, and that includes the total cost of staffing as well as all services provided. The resident pays a minimum of \$15 of that cost and much of the remainder is funded thru grants. This greatly reduces the burden placed on the local taxpayer.

Future issues of *The Choice* will discuss the costs of other community corrections programs that appear on the accompanying chart.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS  
ADULT PER DIEM 2010–2011**



Department of Correction (2010)

Source: 2001 Corrections Yearbook

The offender pays at least \$15 of this daily cost.

The offender pays at least \$10 of this daily cost.

The offender pays at least \$5 of this daily cost.

### ***Vision Statement***

We will be leaders in the supervision of our program participants while maintaining community safety, as well as utilizing proven programs and developing innovative programs to promote their future as productive members of society.

### ***Mission Statement***

We provide cost-effective, community-based alternatives to incarceration by providing intensive supervision and treatment-focused programs to encourage positive change in participants. These programs and supervision hold the offender responsible and accountable, without compromising the safety of the community or the community corrections’ staff.